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DE RUEHGV #1610 1800520
ZNR UUUUU ZZH
R 290520Z JUN 06
FM USMISSION GENEVA
TO RUEHC/SECSTATE WASHDC 0210
RUCNDT/USMISSION USUN NEW YORK 1447
INFO RUEHZJ/HUMAN RIGHTS COUNCIL COLLECTIVE
RUEHAR/AMEMBASSY ACCRA 0465
RUEHAS/AMEMBASSY ALGIERS 1365
RUEHAM/AMEMBASSY AMMAN 0941
RUEHGB/AMEMBASSY BAGHDAD 0175
RUEHKB/AMEMBASSY BAKU 0140
RUEHBP/AMEMBASSY BAMAKO 0043
RUEHDK/AMEMBASSY DAKAR 0506
RUEHKA/AMEMBASSY DHAKA 0372
RUEHDJ/AMEMBASSY DJIBOUTI 0192
RUEHIL/AMEMBASSY ISLAMABAD 4649
RUEHLS/AMEMBASSY LUSAKA 0283
RUEHMK/AMEMBASSY MANAMA 0111
RUEHML/AMEMBASSY MANILA 0514
RUEHME/AMEMBASSY MEXICO 2325
RUEHMN/AMEMBASSY MONTEVIDEO 0271
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RUEHPG/AMEMBASSY PRAGUE 0677
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RUEHRB/AMEMBASSY RABAT 0527
RUEHRH/AMEMBASSY RIYADH 0649
RUEHUL/AMEMBASSY SEOUL 3443
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RUEHWR/AMEMBASSY WARSAW 1179
RUEHYD/AMEMBASSY YAOUNDE 0046

UNCLAS GENEVA 001610

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STATE FOR IO/RHS, DRL/MLA, L/HRR

E.O. 12958: N/A

TAGS: [PHUM](#) [UNHRC](#)

SUBJECT: HRC: JUNE 27 WESTERN HUMAN RIGHTS GROUP MEETING

¶1. Summary: The Western Human Rights Group met June 27 to review the state of play at the Human Rights Council. Swiss Ambassador Blaise Godet, the Western Group's Bureau representative, reported on the Bureau's June 26 meeting, at which the priority was President de Alba's effort to avoid a Palestinian resolution on Israel's human rights practices. Godet also briefed on President de Alba's current thinking regarding the Council's methods of work and the modalities for the mechanisms being considered for universal periodic review and mandate review. End Summary.

Council Methods of Work

¶2. De Alba and the bureau also discussed in the June 26 meeting possible new categories of Council instruments which would supplement the use of resolutions. Godet reported that such instruments might include a "Council statement" or "President's statement," to minimize (or avoid) the tabling of resolutions, and minimize confrontation. Mission is seeking clarification on this proposal from Swiss and Mexican counterparts, as we are concerned that effort to "minimize confrontation" could be used as a excuse to eliminate the use of country resolutions. We will report as soon as we have further information.

UPR/Proposed Program of Work

¶3. Godet reported that Ambassador de Alba intends to

personally oversee the process of reviewing all mandates from the Commission on Human Rights. According to Godet, De Alba intends to end this session of the HRC with a short paper outlining his views on how mandate review should be handled. De Alba also wants to establish a facilitation process to oversee the Universal Peer Review and review of mandates, which might also be handled through two working groups. Godet also reported that de Alba plans to create a "Friends of the Chair" group to replace the multi-regional Fox Group, which is being phased out. Further informals on the program of work will be held June 29, and the bureau anticipates a final decision on the issue by the end of the Council session on June 30.

TICHENOR